

18.. (Reiterated) The method of claim 20, wherein before hybridization, the target polynucleotide is amplified by the polymerase chain reaction.

19. (Reiterated) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- b) a naturally-occurring human polynucleotide sequence variant encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
- c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a) or b).

20. (Once Amended) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having the sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 19, comprising hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence completely complementary to SEQ ID NO:2, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex; and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.  
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